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A REPORT OF CATTLE, SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED

Broadcast by E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service, during the Dept. of Agriculture portion, National Farm and Home Hour, Friday, January 12, 1940, through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and 91 associated stations.

KADDERLY:

Yesterday afternoon the Agricultural Marketing Service released its report covering cattle on feed as of January first. Today---less than an hour ago---the Service issued its January first report on sheep and lambs on feed. For the highlights of these reports here is E. J. Rowell - Mike, first let's have the report covering cattle on feed.

ROWELL:

The total number of cattle on feed the first of this month was apparently the largest in recent years and among the largest in the last 20 years. The number of cattle on feed in the 11 Western States was about a fifth larger than it was a year ago and -- the largest ever for that date. In the Corn Belt States, about 12 percent more cattle were on feed than at the beginning of 1939. Missouri reported the biggest gains, sizable gains were reported in Minnesota, South Dakota, Indiana, and Iowa. Kansas was the only State in the Corn Belt showing a decrease. In the eastern part of the Corn Belt the number of cattle on feed the first of January was probably the largest in 20 years.

When will these cattle go to market?

Reports from feeders in the Corn Belt say that a larger proportion of these cattle on feed will go to market before the first of May than was the case last year. A large proportion of the shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt States during the past few months were heavy feeder steers. Cattle of this kind don't require as long a time on the feed lot to be put into good condition. So there'll probably be a much bigger supply of fed cattle on the market during the first few months of 1940 than there were during the first few months of 1939.

KADDERLY:

So much for cattle on feed. And now, Mike, let's have the highlights of the report covering sheep and lambs on feed as of January 1.

ROWELL:

The same kind of a story, Wallace, only not quite as much so. The number of sheep and lambs on feed the first of the month in the principal feeding States was about 3 percent larger than a year ago. In other words, an increase of nearly 200 thousand over last year, making the total this year about 6 million head.

The number on feed the first of this month was larger than last year in both the Corn Belt and the Western States. In the Corn Belt the number is about the same as it was five years ago - that was the peak year for lamb feeding in that section. This report tells of more sheep and lambs on feed in Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska; no change in Illinois, Wisconsin, and South Dakota; and fewer on feed in Indiana and Kansas. The decrease in Kansas was largely due to the poor wheat pastures in that State this year. It is expected that the marketings of fed lambs in the Corn Belt in January and early February will be relatively large.

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In the West, the number of sheep and lambs on feed January 1, was larger in 9 of the 14 States. In this case we are including North Dakota, Texas, and Oklahoma in the Western group. The largest increases were in Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, and the biggest decreases in Colorado and Oklahoma. Although the number on feed January 1 was a little larger than a year earlier, the number fed through the winter feeding season in the West is expected to be smaller during the 1939-40 season than it was during the 1938-39 season. Weather conditions for the country as a whole up to January 1 were generally favorable for feeding operations in all areas and lambs were reported to have made good gains.

KADDERLY: (Ad lib conclusion)

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